

Advisory Council for
Asian Pacific American Affairs
October 4, 2005 Meeting Summary

The Advisory Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs held its October meeting at the Michigan Department of Civil Rights Office in Detroit, H. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D., Chair, presiding.

The Council heard from Chair Wilkinson that a donation of \$23,000 was made by the following organizations on behalf of the victims of Hurricane Katrina: the Association of Chinese Americans (ACA), the Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce (APACC), Chinmaya Seva Samiti, the Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA), the Filipino American Political Association of MI (FAPAM), Indian Club of Greater Flint, the Korean American Community of Metro Detroit (KACMD), the Korean American Women's Association (KAWA) and the National Federation of Filipino American Associations MI Chapter (NaFFAA). The donation was presented to MDCR Director Linda V. Parker and subsequently to Governor Jennifer Granholm.

The Council heard a presentation on the demographics of Asian Pacific Americans in Michigan from Kurt Metzger of the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University. (View the full report, *Presentation on Asian Pacific American Demographics*, at www.michigan.gov/mdcr.)

The Council heard reports from several sub-committees. Priority Initiatives were discussed, and it was decided that further discussion will take place at the next meeting of the Council.

Under New Business, Council member Amy Ku'uileialoha Stillman provided information on a September 15 University of Michigan hate/bias incident, which is still under investigation. Director Linda Parker spoke about hate crimes in the state, and informed the Council that MDCR has a Crisis Response team which has the ability to reach out to victims, communities, and law enforcement officials when needed. Chair Wilkinson has spoken with representatives of New Detroit, and organization charged with addressing race relations in the Detroit metro area. New Detroit plans to write letters U of M President Coleman, and also to WRIF Radio because of inappropriate comments made by several of its talk show hosts. Several Council committees will work together as a task force to study the issue, with cooperation from MDCR staff.

Under New Business, Director Parker stated that there will be a debate on affirmative action between Frank H. Wu, Dean of the Wayne State University Law School and Ward Connerly, founder and chair of the American Civil Rights Institute, on November 21 at Lawrence Tech University.

The Advisory Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs was created by a May 2005, Executive Order from Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, to advise the Governor and the Department of Civil Rights on policy matters pertaining to Asian and Pacific Americans in Michigan. H. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D, was appointed Chair of the Council, which was placed administratively inside the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. A copy of the Governor's Executive Order is available on the Governor's website at <http://www.michigan.gov/gov>.